Tunnel Tragedy in Orissa

5080. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons drowned in the recent tunnel tragedy in Kalahandi district of Orissa;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to the next of kin of the persons who lost their lives in the tragedy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of the tragedy;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) the action taken in the matter; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Sixteen employees of the contractor are reported to have been trapped inside the tunnel at the time of flooding and are suspected to have died. However, only 14 bodies have been recovered.

(b) and (c). The State Government has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25,000 to each of the bereaved family of the dead workers from Chief Ministers' Relief Fund. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., pending the usual compensation admissible under the rules, has also announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 3000 as an immediate relief to the next of kin of the deceased workers. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jaspore has awarded provisional compensation to the tune of Rs. 10.72 lakhs. It has also been decided by the State Government to rehabilitate one member from each of the family of deceased.

(d) to (g). State Government has entrusted the Development Commissioner, Orissa, assisted by a panel of technical experts, with the detailed enquiry of the incident. The report of the enquiry is scheduled to be submitted within a period of 2 months. The Central Government proposed to set up a Committee of Inquiry also. Its terms of reference are being finalised.

Talks with ULFA

5081. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative has been taken by the Government to start a dialogue with the United Liberation Front of Assam and other militant out-fits in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Chief Minister Assam made the following declaration over TV/AIR on 8.7.91:-

(i) ULFA detenus without specific charges would be released forthwith.

(ii) The Govt. would release all ULFA detenus including those involved in heinous crimes and grant General Amnesty if ULFA gives up arms and come to the negotiating table.

(iii) If necessary the Govt. would request the Govt. of India to

revoke ban on ULFA. In pursuance of the above declarations, about 450 detenus have been released by the Government. However, the United Liberation Front of Assam has not responded favourably.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices in Haryana

5082. SHRI RAM PRAKASH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices an sub post offices opened in Haryana during 1990-91; district-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices and sub post offices likely to be opened in Haryana during 1991-92, district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The information is furnished in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) A target of opening of 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 6 departmental sub post offices has been fixed for 1991-92 for Haryana. 4 Departmental sub offices, 3 at Gurgaon 1 at Faridabad and 1 extra departmental branch post office has already been opened during 1991-92. Further, number of departmental sub post offices and extra departmental branch post offices district-wise likely to be opened subject to justification and target fixed for 1991-92 in Haryana during 1991-92 are indicated in the enclosed statement-II.

STATEMENT - I

District-wise detail of Post Offices and Sub Post Offices opened in Haryana during 1990-91

S. No.	*Name of District*	*Sub Post Offices*	*Number of Post Offices opened during 1990-91*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
1.	Gurgaon	1	8
2.	Yamuna Nagar		2
3.	Kurukshetra		4
4.	Kaithal		3
5.	karnal		3
6.	Jind		3
7.	Sonepat		1
8.	Rohtak		2
9.	Bhiwani		3